

Docket No. 22513-S01

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/868,025

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 6-8 and 10-11 are currently pending and under examination. Claims 6-8 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2 and 10-11 are amended herein. No new matter is added and entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

The applicants note, with appreciation, the indication that claims 1 and 2 are allowable.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for incorporating "reference characters" purportedly not set forth in the specification. The applicants thank the Examiner for the careful review of the specification and drawings. The present amendment incorporates an amendment to the specification to clearly delineate the reference characters mentioned by the Examiner. Accordingly, this objection may be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 6-8 as purportedly failing to further limit the scope of claim 2. The applicants respectfully disagree with this conclusion given the additional wording set forth in these claims. Nevertheless, claims 6-8 are cancelled herein thus rendering this objection moot. Withdrawal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has also objected to claims 1 and 2 for typographical reasons. These claims are amended herein in accordance with the request by the Examiner. As such, withdrawal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested.

It is believed that since the present claim amendments are provided for reasons related to form not necessary for further consideration of the claimed subject matter, they do not affect claim scope.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as purportedly indefinite for lacking antecedent basis. In reply, claims 10 and 11 are amended herein to

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incorporate the antecedent basis requested by the Examiner. As such, the rejection of these claims may be withdrawn.

It is believed that since the present claim amendments are provided for reasons related to form not necessary for further consideration of the claimed subject matter, they do not affect claim scope.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2 and 10-11, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

If, for any reason, the Examiner determines that the pending claims are not in condition for allowance, applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney at 202-736-8143 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding *before* the issuance of another action.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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